

—anatomical areas in which radiotherapy has much to contribute in the treatment of patients. While the book is limited largely to the method of employment of interstitial radium therapy, this subject is covered well and with adequate diagrams showing appropriate dosages. X-ray therapy dosage is also given, and the choice of surgical operation or electrocoagulation as methods of treatment is discussed. The numerous illustrations, some of which are in color, add materially to the value of the book.

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**BLAKISTON'S NEW GOULD MEDICAL DICTIONARY.** Harold W. Jones, M.D., Normand L. Hoerr, M.D., and Arthur Osol, Ph.D., Editors. 252 illustrations on 45 plates. First edition. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$8.50.

This book is not a revision of Gould's Medical Dictionary, but, in the editors' words, a complete new reference work. It not only brings definitions of traditional medical terms abreast of current usage but also defines words recently brought into use in medical literature. Noteworthy is a definition of the word *allergy*: "Altered reaction capacity to a specific substance which will cause no symptoms of hypersensitivity in the nonsensitive." It is pleasant to note that by including the word *capacity* in the definition, the editors have held aloof from current (and rife) misusage.

A helpful feature is that trade names of medicinal products are included, always with notation that the name of the product is trademarked or proprietary.

The typography is such as to save time for the user. Words listed as sub-entries below the parent word are vertically aligned flush with a slightly indented left-hand margin. The eye need move only downward along the edge of the column to find the word being sought. This is a distinct improvement over the usual practice of scattering sub-entries like needles in a haystack of type below a main entry.

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**CLINICAL BIOCHEMISTRY.** By Abraham Cantarow, M.D., Professor of Biochemistry, Jefferson Medical College, and Max Trumper, Ph.D., Commander, H(S), USNR, Lecturer in Clinical Biochemistry and Basic Science Coordinator, Naval Medical School, Bethesda, Maryland. Fourth edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$8.00.

This is certainly one of the best texts on clinical biochemistry. It attempts to translate current biochemical knowledge into clinical practice and it succeeds remarkably well in this attempt. The coverage is broad, yet sufficiently detailed. The authors write from a wide personal experience. They also have an extensive bibliography for general subjects and specific statements at the end of each chapter; from these the reader may follow up any investigation he desires.

This, the fourth edition, has extensive revisions on acid-base balance; pigment metabolism in relation to jaundice; carbohydrate, lipid and protein metabolism; thyroid function; adrenal function; absorption and storage of iron;

action of parathyroid hormone; renal physiology; vitamins and experimental diabetes. Newly added material includes chemical changes in shock; thymol turbidity and flocculation tests; fatty liver; the crush syndrome; alarm reaction; goitrogenic agents; and new methods of studying adrenocortical function.

The book is a valuable reference for both practitioners and students.

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**TEXTBOOK OF MEDICAL TREATMENT.** By Various Authors, Edited by D. M. Dunlop, M.D., L. S. P. Davidson, M.D., and J. W. McNeew, M.D. Fifth edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$8.50.

This is the fifth edition in ten years of a standard British text of treatment. It has been written for both students and practitioners to provide a moderate sized text in which the information should be clear and explicit. However, there is much that may be criticized in the volume.

The arrangement of the chapters is unusual and without adequate reason as far as this reviewer can discover. The order begins: Infectious Diseases, Sulphonamide Drugs, Penicillin, Antihistaminic Drugs, Dehydration and Hypochloremia, Tuberculosis, Common Diseases of the Skin, Venereal Diseases, etc., etc.

The style itself of the book will probably limit its use largely to the countries in the sterling bloc. The idioms (particularly the medical idioms) will require translating for the average American student not brought up on weights in stone nor weighing in minims. The individual collaborators use either the metric or apothecary system as they choose. This breeds confusion—the avoidance of which is the avowed purpose of the editors. In the preface it is stated that the apothecary system has been used in deference to the practitioner but that an approximate metric equivalent has been included in brackets after each dose to encourage the use of the metric system. These equivalents are sometimes carried out to odd decimal points which will discourage even the most ardent proponent of this system.

In general the book is conservative in its outlook on newer methods. The treatment of diseases of the liver is incomplete and includes much which is outworn. The dosage of quinidine recommended for paroxysmal tachycardia is homeopathic. Aluminum hydroxide and magnesium oxide have failed. There is no discussion of antibiotics in the broad sense. The entire write-up on these substances is outdated; streptomycin is described as being in the experimental stage in tuberculosis; aureomycin does not appear; and penicillin is still in the every-four-hour dosage stage.

There is no bibliography at the ends of the chapters—an inclusion which would help the student. There are appendices, however, which include a conversion table for weights and measures and a list of official preparations with their proprietary equivalents. Forty pages are devoted to technical procedures.

This book can be recommended to American students and practitioners only for its comparative interest.

